

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of semifinished products and intermediates in the production of leather using one or more organic polyelectrolytes, comprising at least one of the following steps:

- (a) adding ~~Addition of~~ one or more polyelectrolytes and from 0 to 0.7% by weight, based on the salted weight, of lime immediately before or during the liming,
- (b) adding ~~addition of~~ one or more polyelectrolytes before or during the bating,
- (c) adding ~~addition of~~ one or more polyelectrolytes and a total of from 0 to 3% by weight, based on the pelt weight, of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt immediately before or in the pickle.

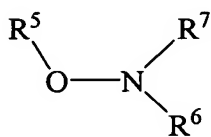
Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more organic polyelectrolyte polyelectrolytes used, ~~is a polyampholyte~~ are polyampholytes.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more organic polyelectrolyte polyelectrolytes used, ~~is a polyacid~~ are polyacids.

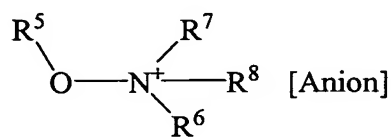
Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more organic polyelectrolyte polyelectrolytes used, ~~is a polybase~~ are polybases.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more organic polyelectrolyte polyelectrolytes used, ~~is a polysalt~~ are polysalts.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~  
~~claims~~ claim 1, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV  
b



XV a



XV b

where R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are identical or different and are selected from

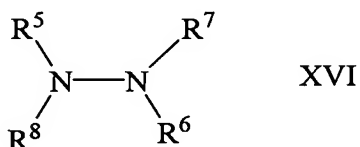
hydrogen,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl,

and the anion is selected from halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen  
phosphate and dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof,

or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI,



which may be protonated and in which R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above[[.]],

are furthermore added in step (a).

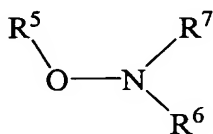
Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
hydroxylamine is added in step (a).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI are used together with alkali metal hydroxide and alkali metal carbonate in step (a).

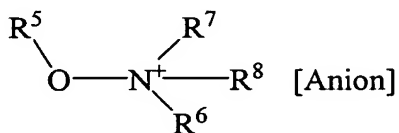
Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A semifinished product or intermediate in the production of leather, produced by a the process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for producing leather, comprising  
subjecting the ~~The use of a~~ semifinished product or intermediate of claim 9 to a tanning  
process in the production of leather, produced by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8,  
~~for the production of leather.~~

Claim 11 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b



XV a



XV b

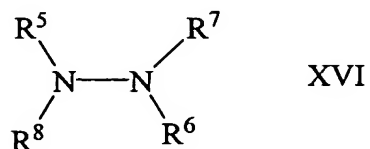
where R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are identical or different and are selected from  
hydrogen,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl,

and the anion is selected from halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate and dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof,

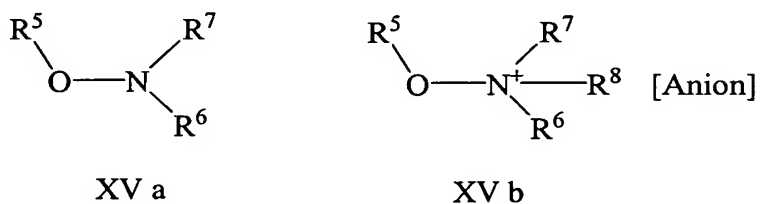
or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI,



which may be protonated and in which R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above,

are furthermore added in step (a).

Claim 12 (New): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b



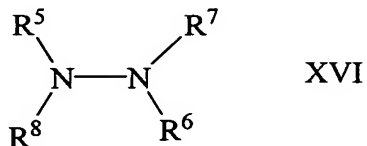
where R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are identical or different and are selected from  
hydrogen,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl,

and the anion is selected from halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate and dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof,

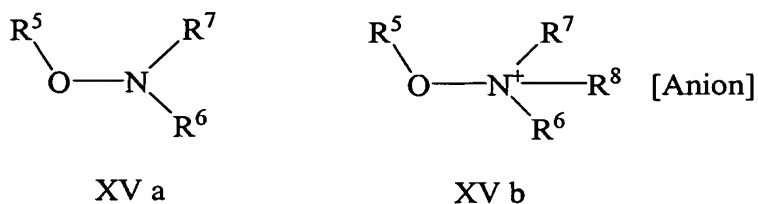
or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI,



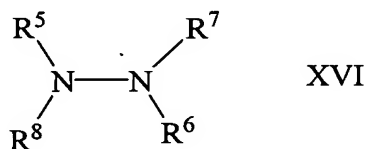
which may be protonated and in which R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above,

are furthermore added in step (a).

Claim 13 (New): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b



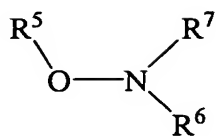
where  $\text{R}^5$  to  $\text{R}^8$  are identical or different and are selected from  
hydrogen,  
 $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{20}$ -alkyl,  
 $\text{C}_6$ - $\text{C}_{14}$ -aryl,  
and the anion is selected from halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate and dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof,  
or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI,



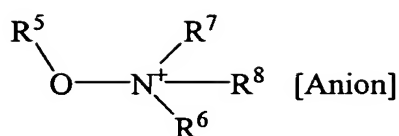
which may be protonated and in which  $\text{R}^5$  to  $\text{R}^8$  are as defined above,

are furthermore added in step (a).

Claim 14 (New): The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b



XV a



XV b

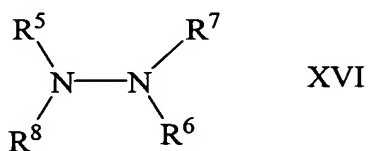
where  $\text{R}^5$  to  $\text{R}^8$  are identical or different and are selected from  
hydrogen,

$\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{20}$ -alkyl,

$\text{C}_6$ - $\text{C}_{14}$ -aryl,

and the anion is selected from halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen  
phosphate and dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof,

or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI,



which may be protonated and in which  $\text{R}^5$  to  $\text{R}^8$  are as defined above,

are furthermore added in step (a).

Claim 15 (New): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein hydroxylamine is  
added in step (a).

Claim 16 (New): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein hydroxylamine is  
added in step (a).

Claim 17 (New): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein hydroxylamine is  
added in step (a).

Claim 18 (New): The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein hydroxylamine is added in step (a).

Claim 19 (New): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI are used together with alkali metal hydroxide and alkali metal carbonate in step (a).

Claim 20 (New): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI are used together with alkali metal hydroxide and alkali metal carbonate in step (a).